

09/682,890
Amdt. Dated Mar. 12, 2004
Response to Off. Act. Dated Dec. 12, 2003

REMARKS

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wu, U.S. Patent Number 5,908,358.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Cavallaro, *et al.*, U.S. Patent Number 5,688,191.

Claims 1, 10 and 11 have all been amended to limit the core to a diameter ranging from 1.35 inches to 1.64 inches, a mass ranging from 32 grams to 40 grams, and a PGA compression ranging from 55 to 70, support for which is found at paragraphs 38 and 39 of the Specification. Claims 1, 10 and 11 have also been limited to the boundary layer having a thickness ranging from 0.025 inch to 0.075 inch and being composed of a blend of ionomer materials, support for which is found at paragraph 40 of the Specification.

Claim 1 has been limited to the cover comprising a thermoset material with a resin selected from the group consisting of diallyl phthalates and diallyl iso phthalates, support for which is found at paragraph 28 of the Specification. Claim 10 has been limited to microwave heating the golf ball precursor product, support for which is found at paragraph 43 of the Specification. Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to the golf ball having a PGA compression ranging from 103 to 110, support for which is found in Tables Two and Three of the Specification.

The prior art fails to disclose the invention of the amended claims. Cavallaro teaches away from the present invention.

"In a preferred embodiment, the present invention is also directed towards a multi-layer golf ball which comprises a core; a cover layer

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comprising an inner layer and an outer layer, wherein the outer layer comprises a material with a lower melting point or heat of reaction temperature (also referred to as cure temperature) than that of the material of the inner layer; and at least one mantle layer disposed between the core and cover layer, wherein the mantle layer comprises dynamically vulcanized thermoplastic elastomer, functionalized styrene-butadiene elastomer, thermoplastic polyurethane or metallocene polymer and blends thereof." (See Column 3, lines 45-55).

Thus, Cavallaro teaches away from heating the golf ball precursor product, and teaches away from a volumetric expansion of the golf ball precursor product.

Wu discloses use a urethane with an epoxy group.

Thus, the prior art fails to disclose the invention of the amended claims. It is believed that the amended claims are now allowable. The Applicants therefore respectfully solicit a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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